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A new subspecies of *Delias patrua* Leech, 1890 (Lepidoptera: Pieridae) from East Laos

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Keywords:

Lepidoptera;
Pieridae;
Delias;
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description;
new subspecies;
Laos.

Abstract. – *Delias patrua laotiana* **ssp**. **nov**. is decribed from Phou Samsoum, Xieng Khouang Province in east-central Laos. The new taxon differs from other subspecies of *D. patrua* by its overall melanic appearance with reduced yellow and white markings on both wings. The distribution is isolated from other subspecies of *D. patrua*.

Davenport C., Grimaldi N. & Pequin O., 2026. – A new subspecies of *Delias patrua* Leech, 1890 (Lepidoptera: Pieridae) from East Laos. *Faunitaxys*, 14(09) : 1 – 6.

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Introduction

Delias patrua was described by Leech in 1890 based on Chinese specimens from Chang Yang, Hubei. Talbot described the subspecies *shan* in 1937 based on Burmese specimens from Shan States. Its currently known distribution includes central and southern China, northern and eastern Myanmar, northern Thailand and Laos. The subspecies *guiyangensis* Chou, Zhang & Wang, 2001 is a synonym of *Delias berinda adelma* Mitis 1893.

Delias patrua Leech in 1890
***Delias patrua laotiana* ssp. nov.**
(Fig. 1-6)
ZooBank : https://zoobank.org/3B9AECD9-954E-4D27-A8EB-DB9EBD6C0E45

Holotype, ♂, LAOS, Xieng Khouang, Phou Samsoum, alt. 2,000 m, 17-20.V. 2023, S. Collard leg. (MHNG : Museum d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève, Geneva, Switzerland).

Paratypes (26 ♂, 1 ♀)
- **9** ♂, **1** ♀ same collection data as holotype.
- **6** ♂ ibid. IV. 2020.
- **2** ♂ ibid. VI. 2018 (in collection of N. Grimaldi, Malaysia).
- **2** ♂ ibid. VI. 2018 (in collection of O. Pequin, France).
- **7** ♂ ibid. IV.2020 (in collection of C. Davenport, UK).

Description of the holotype (Fig. 1-2)

Forewing length 34 mm.

Forewing upper side. – Ground colour black with suffused grey streak in discal cell, three suffused grey streaks in median area and seven white elongated spots in the apical area. Hind wing upper side : black generally, yellow dusting at costa, suffused yellow streak in cell, chrome yellow anal patch between inner margin and vein 1b, two weakly defined grey streaks in median area, five yellow-grey terminal spots, triangular in space 1b and 2, vestigial in space 6.

Forewing underside. – Ground colour dark grey, narrow white streak in cell, three well-defined white streaks in median area, six small elongated apical spots, white in spaces 1b to 4, yellow and vestigial in spaces 5 and 6. Hind wing underside : ground colour black, short oval yellow basal patch divided by black scaling on vein 8, elliptical yellow streak in cell shading to white at base, yellow anal patch between inner margin and vein 1b and extending into tornal part of space 1b, short yellow streaks in spaces 2 and 3 of median area and extending from anal patch in space 1b, six yellow spots in terminal area, arrow shaped in spaces 2 and 3.

Female (Paratype) (Fig. 5-6)

Forewing length 38 mm.

Forewing upper side. – Black with grey dusting in cell and basal area, five suffused grey-white streaks in median area, seven grey-white spots in the apical area. Hind wing upper side : black generally, suffused yellow patch at dorsal costa, suffused cream yellow streak in cell, chrome yellow anal patch filling the space between inner margin and vein 2 and extending slightly beyond the vein in the median and terminal areas, four white median streaks vestigial in spaces 5 and 6, five grey white terminal spots.

Forewing underside. – Ground colour dark grey, narrow white streak in cell, six elliptical grey-white streaks in median area, six small diamond shaped terminal spots, white in spaces 1b to 4, yellow in spaces 5, 6 and 7. Hind wing underside : ground colour black, oval yellow basal spot divided by black scaling on vein 8, elliptical yellow streak in cell shading to white at base, Yellow anal patch filling space 1, 1a and tornal part of space 1b, five yellow median spots, vestigial in space 5, edged basally with white in space, six yellow terminal spots, vestigial in space 1b, arrow shaped in spaces 2, 3 & 4.

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Fig. **1-6**. *D. patrua laotiana* **ssp**. **nov**. Phou Samsoum, Laos.
1-2. Holotype ♂. **3-4**. Paratype ♂. **5-6**. Paratype ♀.

Fig. **7-8**. *D. patrua shan*. Holotype ♂, Loimwe, Myanmar.

Fig. **9-10**. *D. patrua patrua*. Holotype ♀, Chang Yang, China.

Variation. – Among the male paratypes, seven specimens (27%), Figs 3 and 4, have a diffuse white median spot in space 6 of the hindwing underside that is absent or vestigial in the holotype and others.

Differential diagnosis. – The new subspecies may be distinguished from other subspecies of *Delias patrua* by its darker overall appearance with reduced grey and white markings on both wing surfaces. Hindwing underside with a narrower cell streak and smaller, occassionally vestigial, yellow discal streaks and yellow submarginal spots thinner than in other subspecies.

Discussion. – Populations of *D.patrua* from Laos have hitherto been assigned to subspecies *shan* Talbot, 1937 otherwise recorded from East Myanmar (Shan States) and North Thailand (Pequin, 2026; Inayoshi, 2025; Nakamura & Wakahara, 2012). In the collection Yagishita (Japan), there are some specimens of ssp. *patrua* from Chudu Razi Hills, NE Kachin States, Myanmar, not previously recorded in litterature.

The new subspecies occurs in a limited area around Phou Samsoum (19º 07'43" N - 103º48'52"E), a mountain peak of 2,620 m height, in east central Laos, approximately 500 km distant from known populations of ssp *shan*. The species has not been recorded from the intervening areas of northern Laos. On Phou Samsoum it occurs in montane forest above 2,000 m altitude. The related *Delias* species *D. sanaca perspicua* Fruhstorfer, 1910, *D. lativitta tai* Yoshino, 1999 and *D. belladonna yukaae* Nakano, 1993 (Yagishita et al., 1993: 11-12; Fig. 1-2) have been recorded from Phou Samsoum (Yagishita A., Nakano S. & Morita S., 1993).

Etymology. – The subspecies is named after the nation where it is endemic.

Distribution of the new ssp. – Fig. 12-14.

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Fig. **11**. Live picture of a male *Delias patrua laotiana* **ssp**. **nov**. imbibing minerals. Phou Samsoum, Laos, May 2023.

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Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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Writing the article. – CD & OP.
Description. – CD.
Article proofreading. – CD, OP & NG.
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Material study. – CD, OP & NG.
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Résumé

Davenport C., Grimaldi N. & Pequin O., 2026. – Une nouvelle sous-espèce de *Delias patrua* Leech, 1890 (Lepidoptera : Pieridae) de l'Est du Laos. *Faunitaxys*, 14(09) : 1 – 6.

Delias patrua laotiana **ssp**. **nov**. est décrite à partir de spécimens provenant du Phou Samsoum, dans la province de Xieng Khouang, au centre-est du Laos. Le nouveau taxon se distingue des autres sous-espèces de *D. patrua* par son apparence globalement mélanique, avec des marques jaunes et blanches réduites sur les deux ailes. Sa distribution est isolée de celle des autres sous-espèces de *D. patrua*.

Mots-clés. – Lepidoptera, Pieridae, *Delias*, *patrua*, taxonomie, description, nouvelle sous-espèce, Laos.

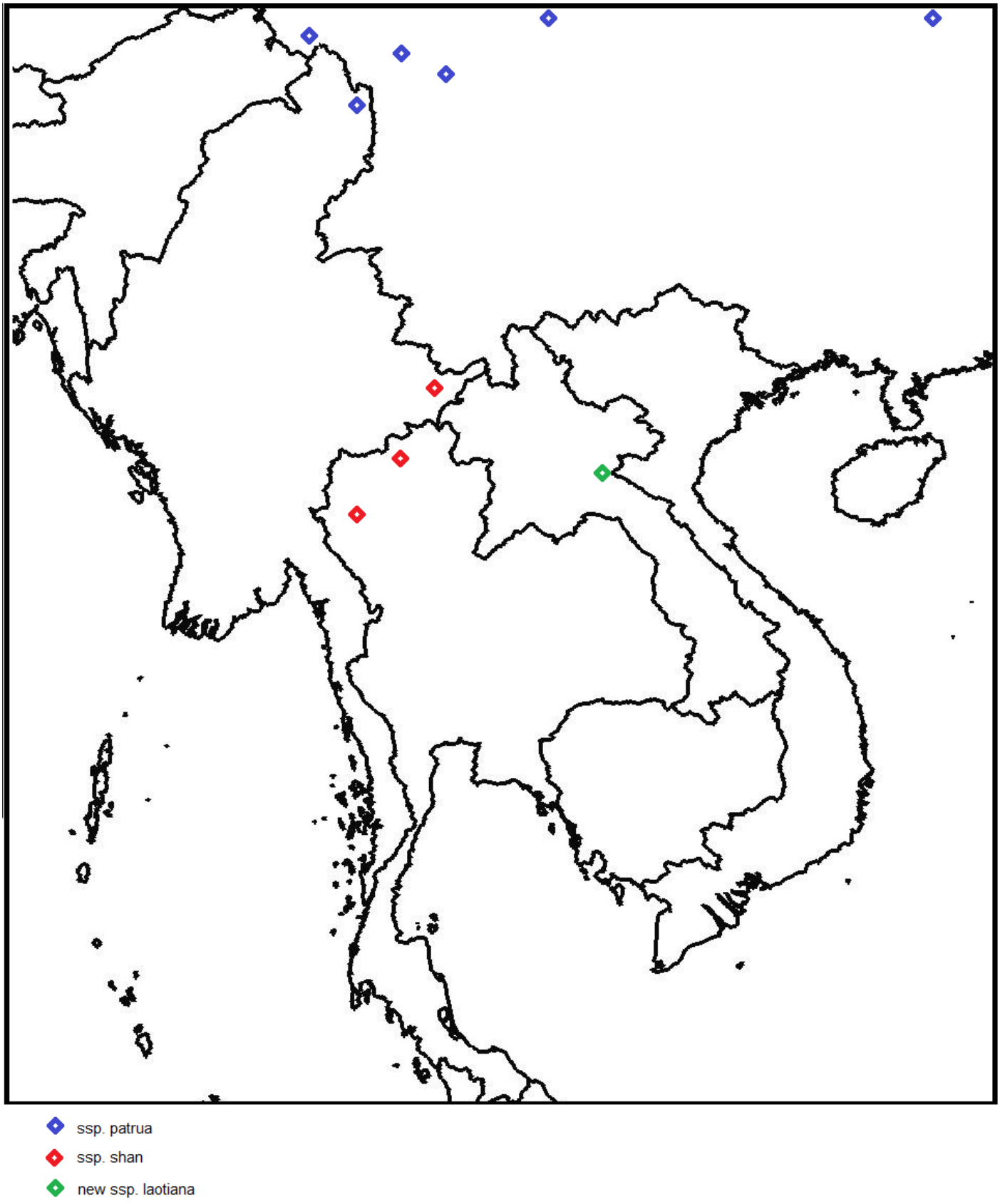

Fig. **12**. Distribution map of *Delias patrua laotiana* **ssp**. **nov**.

Fig. **13**. Phou Samsoum, April 2025.

Fig. **14**. Biotope of *Delias patrua laotiana* **ssp**. **nov** on the Phou Samsoum, April 2025.

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Illustration de la couverture :

Live picture of a male *Delias patrua laotiana* **ssp**. **nov**. imbibing minerals. Phou Samsoum, Laos, May 2023.

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